CLAY GEERDES'
COMIXWORLD
VOTE ? WHY BOTHER? WHO CARES WHICH GANG GETS TO LOOT THIS COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS ?!?
POLITICAL ACTION A CHRISTIAN MISSION
TRAP DOOR

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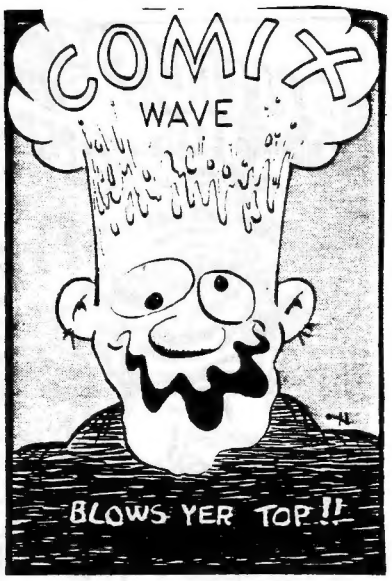
logo by Joe Zabel (a parody of apolitical me). Wave logo by Sam Hallmark. Subs: $6 for 24. $11 for 48.* On TV, only the faces change each season, and those not very much. It's guys saying, "Trust me." Truly horrible dialogue spoken by people you're glad you don't know. PAPER DULLS. Hard-boiled women selling their daughters to the machinery of make-up. "Don't want to be famous. I just want to be normal." "You're not alone; you've got me. You've got me all the way." Well, shades of MOMMIE, DEAREST. Musical rot to pollute the innocent ear. PARTNERS IN CRIME: the creep and the celebrity for the millionth time. CHARLEY'S ANGELS minus one. Loni and Wonder Woman as detectives, just the kind of folks who will blend in with the crown on a stakeout, huh? CAGNEY AND LACEY weren't bad enough, we need this rot? Most successful t-v scam of 1984 was the packaging and sale of t-v's errors as prime time entertainment--the Bloopers shows, see the celeb fall down and go boom.* I got around to reading Perry's book on THE HAIGHT-ASHBURY: A HISTORY, well, it's not; it's the book one would expect from an editor of ROLLING STONE, a sketchy account of a particular group of people, some of whom happened to live in the Haight during the sixties, most of it taken from the RS files and old newspaper clippings. I found no evidence that Perry interviewed any of the principals recently. There is little or no background on many people and there is no history of the actual neighborhood at all--one finds more about Haight and the old farms that used to be there in the 19th century written in Herb Caen's early books and in issues of the ORACLE. There is no bibliography. Perry doesn't seem to know what was up in the Haight at the time the artists and art isans moved in; there was obviously a real estate scam in progress to get the property completely abandoned and all the merchants phased out so the various buildings could be condemned and the area redeveloped. When the Haight suddenly expanded into an art colony circa 1965-67, those plans were thwarted. Seems to me if Perry was into a <u>history</u>, he would have researched the area, the names of the streets and their origins, who owned the property, what kind of permits re re-zoning, etc. were extant at the time of the subcultural shift. So what we have here is a very sketchy bit of reportage which focuses mainly on music with a token nod to art and other things. Two small paragraphs tossed in at the end on underground comix? Come on. We were all reading Crumb's HEAD COMIX in EVO and the other ug papers and we were reading Joel Beck's THE PROFIT and LENNY OF LAREDO and Joel Beck isn't even mentioned in the book. We were also into underground movies and there was an important scene known as Underground Cinema 12 at the Presidio Theater every Saturday night, always sold out; this is not mentioned at all by Perry (who quite simply focuses on dope and rock music). Also unmentioned, Dan O'Neill's ODD BODKINS, the Berkeley TRIBE, one of the best ug papers in the area in the late sixties, the names of people who did significant things like Jeff Berner who was a major influence in San Francisco State College's Experimental College concept in 1965. The gay scene is ignored: Hibiscus, Tajara, Sandy, and many of the other original Cockettes were a part of the Haight street scene; indeed, it was the loose life-style there that led to many gays coming out for the first time, the drag queens in particular. Western Front was acquired by Art and Jim Mitchell for their O'Farrell Theater. Along with their sex movies, they had movie parties on Tuesday nights; cost a nickel to get in, always a lively hip scene which included a lot of ug writers and cartoonists. Not mentioned by Perry at all. The token mention of

comix history in Perry (pp 290-91) is incorrect. Rip Off Press was not the principal publisher at that time: The Print Mint was. Crumb drew ZAP 1 in '67, the date is on the book. Crumb was not considered important enough to list in the index! Perry puts down Marshall McLuhan's scholarship (I had to laugh at that.) then makes statements like: "..peyote worship was common on the reservations (263)." What reservations? What indians? Perry lumps them all together as though those that lived in the Southwest and did use Peyote were the same as those who lived in the Midwest and never saw a cactus bud. Methinks McLuhan's UNDERSTANDING MEDIA will be around long after Perry's version of HAIGHT ASHBURY is gone.

OH YEAH! I'VE GOT IT! PROBLEMS! SUPER HEROES GOTTA HAVE PROBLEMS.
"HOW COME I'M SO POOR ALL THE TIME? WHY DON'T ANY GIRLS LIKE ME?"
"WHY WON'T MY STINKY PRUNE FACED AUNT JUST DIE ALREADY AND LEAVE ME WHAT LITTLE MONEY SHE HAS?
EXCELLENT! NOW THAT THE AUDIENCE IDENTIFIES WITH ME, I MAY AS WELL GO KICK SOMEONE'S ASS!



The Dangers of Break Dancing

The International Chiropractors Association feels that it would be professionally remiss to refrain from warning the unsuspecting public that break dancing may result in weakness, nausea and general discomfort. One 25-year-old man even broke his neck, the association says.

"We recognize the artistic expression of break dancing. We want it to be a safe experience." To that end:

Don't do a head spin if you have a weak neck; try to avoid a movement called "the suicide"; and stop when you're in pain.

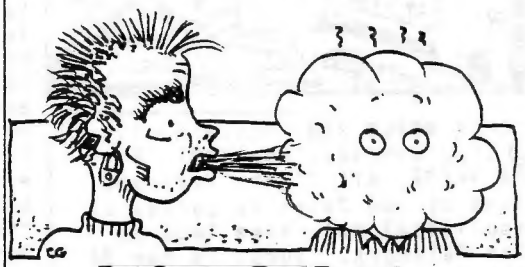
That's Steve Lafler's DOGBOY Konging it up on the front side. Oregonian Steve is in the Bay Area now and is throwing a shindig to celebrate DOGBOY 5 on Friday, the 28th of September at his pad on Page Street. The new issue takes on superheroes, but not to extreme; I mean we're not talking NORMALMAN here, just some fun and games wherein Dogboy gets bitten by a radioactive critter and becomes DR. MAINSTREAM. This one'll give you a GHOSTBUSTER flash. $2 pp from Steve, 1280-A Page St., S.F. CALIF 94117.* I have a few copies of a nice Australian comic--FOX COMICS. I have #1 and #2 and this month you can have both for $3.50 pp. I will have a few of #3 later and perhaps 4. These are B/w, 32 pp, and slightly smaller than standard comic book size. C.G.* Wildcat Press, Box 167, 48 Shattuck Square, Berkeley, CA 94704, has two minis: AHHRCH and CATS WITHOUT HATS (50/st) and two DZs, TRULY NEEDY and DESKTOP COMIX (75/st and $1 St). Art by Bill Fitts.* If you missed ULTRA KLUTZ 1, you can get one from Jeff Nicholson, POB 3684, Chico, CA 95927, for $1.75 pp. Standard ug, color cover.* Up in Seattle, the incredible SUSAN CATHERINE is having a show at the TWO BELLS TAVERN. Sept 24, 1984 through Oct 20, 2313 4th Avenue.* SASE to Vernon Grant for his RANGER READOUT newsletter. 131 Putnam Ave. Cambridge, MA 02139.* The end of the Rocketman story will be published by ECLIPSE. Ditto Aragones' GROO SPECIAL. NEXUS AND BADGER TO FIRST.* First is using back-up stories in GRIM JACK and other titles. Submit!* PROJECT ARTAUD, 401 Alabama St., S. F. CA 94110. featuring open studio weekends in October 1984. Send a stamp for their brochure. C.G.

Q. "WHY DID Picasso choose to go by his mother's . . maiden name?" A. Don't know, don't know. His own name was Pablo Diego Jose Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno Maria de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santisima Trinidad Ruiz — plus Picasso.

OTHER VIEWS

You're tooling along in your ride, your mean machine, your wheels, your hot rod, and you have your speakers on high, blasting out Prince or Cindy Lauper and you think you're mr. cool himself, ultimate punko; meanwhile on the street, most of the people just see you as an insensitive clod with shitty musical taste, parading your ignorance along the main drag for everyone to laugh at. In your wraparound ghetto-blaster, you may think you're a hipster, but folks walking along trying to enjoy the evening just see you as noise pollution, a nerd calling attention to his terminally annoying uselessness.

-Nachdenker



Pot Causes Bad Breath

Habitual heavy pot smokers run the risk of respiratory illness. So say researchers at the Center for the Health Sciences of the University of California at Los Angeles, who tested 200 people who smoked more than two or three marijuana cigarets a day for several years.

The study compared individuals who smoke only marijuana, those who smoke marijuana and tobacco and those who smoke neither. Results, after two years of research, show the heavy pot smokers had a significantly higher prevalence of coughs, phlegm production and lower respiratory tract illness than non-smokers.

The principal investigator, Dr. Donald P. Tashkin, professor of medicine at the UCLA School of Medicine, warned, "Even smoking one marijuana joint a day for two years causes abnormality of air passages and increases the effort necessary to breathe by nearly 25 percent."

☆

THE WEEKEND started famously with a debate between Yippie and Yuppie — Abbie Hoffman and Jerry Rubin — at the Stone, a cavernous club in the hard heart of Bawdway. Abbie, now 47, and Jerry, 40 several times over, did not appear topless; they appeared rather embarrassed, these '60s radicals (and former buddies) who have changed identities. Jerry came onstage in neat suit, neat tie, neat shirt, carrying two big bottles of Perrier. He made a pitch for "entrepreneurial capitalism" and "changing the system from within," at which Abbie held his stomach and grimaced. The man seated next to me, Jonas C. Harschel, said he had entrusted his money to Stockbroker Jerry "and he made a bundle for me." Abbie said, "When I reached 47 I thought I'd acquire wisdom but I got hemorrhoids instead." Then he whooped "Know how a Yuppie spells relief? R-o-l-e-x!" He then threw a watch into a Cuisinart along with the keys to a Porsche, a handful of microchips and the intestines of a Cabbage Patch Doll. He brewed this into a "Yuppie Stew" as Jerry looked on bemused. If it was a debate, Abbie won. He is still one funny radical.